



Cobb County CTP

Glossary of Transportation and Land Use Planning Terms

Access Management – The process of providing and managing access to land development while preserving the efficient flow of traffic.

Activity Center – An area of a community where office, retail, service, residential or civic uses are concentrated.

Aesthetic Zoning – The regulation of building or site design to achieve desirable appearance.

Affordable Housing – Housing units where the occupant is paying no more than 30% of gross income for housing costs.

Annexation – The act or process of adding land to a governmental unit, usually an incorporated place, by an ordinance, a court order or other legal activity.

ARC-Atlanta Regional Commission-the Atlanta area's MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) or regional planning agency that covers ten counties and the City of Atlanta.

Arterial – A class of roadway that serves major traffic movement and that feeds into the interstate freeway system.

Average Daily Traffic (ADT) - The average number of vehicles passing a fixed point in a 24-hour period.

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) – same as ADT except an average over a one-year period.

Bikeway – A facility designed to accommodate bicycle travel for recreational or commuting purposes (also bike lane).

Block Grant – A grant that can be used to fund a wide range of community improvement projects or programs.

Boundary – A line, which may or may not follow a visible feature, which defines the limit of an area.

Buffer – A strip of land, fence or border of trees between one use and another designed to set apart one use area from another.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) – A type of transit service that uses buses like rail cars. BRT usually operates on an exclusive track and loads passengers at stations where the platform is level with the bus floor. By operating a bus on a route that is used exclusively by buses, the speed and quality of the transit trip can be improved. The shuttle service between concourses at Hartsfield Airport is an early example of BRT.

CTP – Comprehensive Transportation Plan.

Community Improvement Districts (CID) – Self-taxing districts which use revenue to finance improvements within their respective boundaries. Town Center and Cumberland CIDs are the two CIDs within Cobb County.

Circulators – Trolleys or people movers that usually operate within a major employment or residential area as part of a commuter's journey. Circulators generally move people between bus and rail stops.

CCTV – Closed circuit television, a system of cameras located along congested roadways to assist the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) in congestion and incident management.

Clustered – Term describing development that is oriented to create a small, functional, well-connected grouping of uses. These clustered areas of development should have interconnected street networks, pedestrian access and scale, pedestrian connections to residential and possibly civic or recreational uses.

Cobb Community Transit (CCT) – Cobb County's transit system, connecting Cobb County to Fulton County, the City of Atlanta and MARTA.

Cobb DOT – Cobb County Department of Transportation.

Collector – A class of roadway that serves through movement as well as access to land and connects highways and arterials to local streets & roads.

Commuter Bus – Commuter bus systems usually have several buses that connect cities using major freeways for most of the trip and making infrequent stops.

Commuter Rail – Commuter rail uses multiple cars along an existing rail corridor (mainly, freight lines). Commuter rail usually connects cities and does not have a large number of stops.

CMS – The federally required Congestion Management System developed through ARC that includes a list of congested roadways in the region.

CTP – The Comprehensive Transportation Plan, a document that summarizes the two-year long process of identifying long range transportation deficiencies and developing a multimodal program to meet the needs.

Conservation Subdivision – A "conservation subdivision" is a residential subdivision that locates the housing units on smaller lots away from sensitive environmental areas. The sensitive environmental features are protected as open areas or greenspace, which are commonly owned and/or protected by a third party through a conservation easement.

Corridor – A broad area of land that follows a general direction and connects major sources of trips. It may contain a number of streets, highways, transit lines and routes. It generally follows an interstate, freeway or major roadway.

DCA – The Georgia Department of Community Affairs – the state agency responsible for monitoring and reviewing local and regional comprehensive plans.

Density – The number of dwelling units per acre of land used for residential, commercial or industrial purposes. Unless otherwise specified, density figures are to be set forth in terms of net acres or the amount of land devoted to residential, commercial or industrial use exclusive of streets or other public lands.

Express High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes – Lanes for used by multi-occupant vehicles only such as buses, carpools and vanpools. In Georgia, motorcycles and alternatively fueled cars, such as electric vehicles, can also use these lanes.

FHWA-Federal Highway Administration

FTA-Federal Transit Administration

Flexible Design Standards – "Flexible design standards" provide a builder or developer with options and alternatives to strict regulatory limits for reasons that provide a positive policy impact.

Freeway – A divided highway having two or more lanes for the exclusive use of traffic in each direction, full control of access, and uninterrupted flow.

Functional Classification – Ranking for streets & roads based on the degree of mobility and access that they provide, i.e., arterials, collectors and local streets.

GDOT- Georgia Department of Transportation

GRTA - Georgia Regional Transportation Authority – a regional transportation authority “charged with combating air pollution, traffic congestion and poorly planned development in the metropolitan Atlanta region, which is currently designated nonattainment under the federal Clean Air Act. “

HOV – High occupancy vehicle (carpool) lane including additional roadway lanes reserved for vehicles with more than one occupant.

Infill development – "Infill" development is new development that utilizes vacant or underutilized parcels of property within a previously developed area to typically provide a more intense use of the property.

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) – The use of different technologies on the existing transportation system to save time, improve safety and reduce congestion without adding new lanes or widening the existing network (i.e. changeable message signs, video cameras, detectors embedded in the pavement).

Mixed-Use Development – Type of development that provides a number of uses in close proximity to create lifestyle or transportation benefits through increasing the opportunities for walking, biking or using transit. Mixed-use is most often applied to providing residential uses near commercial and office uses. This mix of uses may provide the opportunity to live, work and shop in one area, thereby reducing the number or length of travel trips.

MPO-Metropolitan Planning Organization

PMT-Project Management Team-Cobb DOT staff and consultants working together on the transportation plan.

Redevelopment - Redevelopment is the reuse of existing developed property. Redevelopment would generally require changes to the existing structure and site. Redevelopment of a former industrial site for office or residential uses is an example.

RTP – ARC's Regional Transportation Plan. The current RTP is Mobility 2030 showing long-range projects through the year 2030.

Right-of-Way – Publicly owned property that usually holds roadway, sidewalks, rail lines, public utilities and the buffer between transportation infrastructure and private property.

SCC – Stakeholder Coordinating Committee – a group of 50 citizens of unincorporated area of the county and the six (6) cities and in Cobb County appointed by the mayors and county commission to help guide the transportation plan. The SCC represents a diversity of stakeholder groups and individuals.

SPLOST - Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax – an additional one (1) cent sales tax used for special purposes such as transportation.

TCP –Transportation Community Participation Program – the public participation program for the Cobb Transportation Plan that includes stakeholder interviews, a random sample public opinion survey, speakers bureau, newsletter, web site, stakeholders' committee, several rounds of public information meetings, and other communication forms.

TIP – ARC's six year Transportation Improvement Program that includes funded transportation projects throughout the region.

TND – A Traditional Neighborhood Development is a residential or mixed-use development that incorporates historic design features and pedestrian access/scale typical of cities or neighborhoods that existed prior to the widespread use of the automobile.

TOD – Transit-Oriented Development refers to developments that are located adjacent to transit stations or other major development within walking distance of a transit route and providing direct access and accommodations from the development to transit.

Traffic Calming – A term applied to a range of techniques intended to reduce the speeds or impact of automobile traffic on adjoining pedestrian areas.

Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) – A measurement of the total miles traveled by all vehicles in the area for a specified time period.

Vehicle Hours Traveled (VHT)

Volume-to-Capacity (V/C) Ratio – Compares the amount of traffic on the road to the amount of traffic the road was built to carry. A lower v/c ratio indicates less congestion on a road than does a higher v/c ratio.

Village – An area built with pedestrian scale and access that may have a mix of residential, retail, service or civic uses but to a lesser degree than a town center or activity center.